

# Report to the Citizens of the City of New Bedford on the Year 2007

Published March 6, 2008



**Scott W. Lang, Mayor**

Report to the Citizens of New Bedford  
By Mayor Scott W. Lang  
Highlights of City Government Activities in

**2007**

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March 6, 2008

Dear Residents of New Bedford,

Over the past two years I have worked to restore accountability, transparency and confidence in local government. The City of New Bedford operates at the highest standard of government-in the best interests of the people. This report, the second of its kind, is intended to inform the citizens of New Bedford of the progress made by my Administration toward the objectives I have outlined previously. Charting and documenting New Bedford's progress is not only the responsibility of city leadership but it is an essential component of good government. Further, an informed public becomes an engaged citizenry, and I will continue to conduct government work in a transparent fashion and with full public participation.

When I first took office, I outlined several key objectives:

- Make our city safe again
- Prepare our children for the challenges of the future, in both education and in becoming productive citizens
- Create more and better job opportunities through economic development
- Restore the vitality of our neighborhoods
- Manage our city in the most effective and economical way
- Build a sense of community

The milestones described in this report could not have been reached without the dedication and creativity of thousands city residents, city employees and elected officials. New Bedford continues to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Now, let us resolve to continue this forward momentum while focusing our energy on exploring new opportunities and exchanging fresh ideas.

What follows is an overview of the accomplishments achieved in New Bedford over the past year.

My continued good wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Lang  
Mayor

## **NEIGHBORHOODS & HOUSING – Restoring the Vitality of our Neighborhoods**

### **2007 Overview:**

City government, working in conjunction with our many strong civic organizations, remains committed to the restoration of our neighborhoods. Working closely with our city residents, my administration has advanced toward this lofty goal.

Our aggressive problem property program (“Building For A Better New Bedford”) has employed a multi-faceted strategy consisting of the pursuit of delinquent owners (who are often absentee landlords), strict code enforcement, and financial incentives to new owners to promote reinvestment and revitalization.

In addition, we have conducted a systematic infrastructure repair program, city-wide Operation Clean Sweep, a volunteer-based practical and educational program to reduce litter and beautify the City, continued to support new private housing developments to expand our housing stock, improved our parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities, and continued our focus on providing more effective city services.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### ***City Services***

- 2,824 potholes filled.
- 156 sidewalk locations repaired.
- 15,671 linear feet of sidewalks installed.
- 320 street cuts repaired.
- 643 crosswalks painted.
- 7,583 miles of roads swept
- 242,460 linear feet of cracks sealed.
- 36 fire hydrants repaired or replaced
- 2,800 linear feet of harpoon fencing installed.
- The Department of Public Facilities assumed responsibility for the maintenance of all city streetlights, making 1,991 repairs, most within 2 days of receiving the report.

- Fluoridation of the City's water supply commenced pursuant to the results of the public referendum.
- Conducted an Aquatic Vegetation Survey for invasive plant species on the Assawampset Pond Complex.
- Using a Drinking Water Supply grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, purchased conservation restrictions on 50 acres of land along Black Brook in Middleboro in partnership with the Nature Conservancy.
- Received a \$419,000 grant from NSTAR Electric to install 4 variable speed drives at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and conserve energy by reducing electricity usage by 2 million kilowatts per year.
- Used a \$43,298 Water Conservation Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to fund a leak detection survey, meter test equipment, and 500 water conservation kits.
- Completed the Mt. Pleasant Street area water main rehabilitation project.
- Continued North End water pressure improvement project.

#### ***Improvements to Parks and Recreational Opportunities***

- Renovated Warming House at Victory Park.
- Painted buildings at East & West Beach.
- At Hazelwood Park, 2 basketball courts were completely restored, including the addition of new lighting, benches, and landscaping. A total of \$155,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding was dedicated to the project.
- Installed acoustical ceiling at Taber Park Community Center.
- Created a skateboard park at Brooklawn Park.
- Fenced in Duck Pond at Brooklawn Park.
- Built and installed Whaling City Golf Course harpoon fence.
- With the support of funding through a state Urban Self Help Grant, cleared the area known as Ben Rose Baseball Field and installed a baseball diamond, fencing and benches. In the coming weeks, the city will install a water feature, trees and shrubs, netting and state of the art lighting to complete the restoration of the recreational space.

- Cleared and remediated 3 feet of material and installed a sprinkler system and loamed and seeded Sgt. Camara Soccer Field.
- Renovations to the Gomes School play area were completed, including a restored, lighted basketball court with bleachers, new playground equipment, a paved, fully lighted walking trail around the playground, new fencing around the playground, a new baseball backstop, and new trash receptacles, park benches, and a water fountain. A total of \$455,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding was dedicated to the project.
- Renovations to Roberto Clemente Park included new fencing, restoration of the basketball courts, new park benches and picnic tables, a covered pavilion, a water fountain, and landscaping. A total of \$110,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding was dedicated to the project.
- With \$200,000 in state funding, ground was broken on a wheelchair-friendly playground at Buttonwood Park.

### *Housing*

- In collaboration with the New Bedford Housing Authority, began and completed construction on the Mill Street Home Ownership Initiative of 14 units of housing, half of which are designated for first time homebuyers.
- The City will renovate 34 Viall Street, taken through the tax title process, and sell it to a first time homebuyer.
- The City has disposed 2 properties taken through the tax title initiative: 115 Summer Street and 115 Ruth Street.
- The City coordinated 5 homebuyer counseling sessions to provide information to potential first time homebuyers, attended by a total of 225 community residents.
- The City demolished 4 abandoned and deteriorated structures at 712 S. First Street, 54 Cove Street, 1537 Acushnet Avenue, and 521 Purchase Street.
- Through the federal Housing & Urban Development Homeless Grant, \$1.2 million has been awarded to six agencies for ongoing supportive services and rental subsidies for transitional and permanent housing for homeless individuals and housing.

### ***Neighborhood Improvements***

- Planted 120 new trees.
- Established a Tree Farm with over 400 saplings that will be planted in the City.
- Installed 50 new public litter baskets in high-traffic locations.
- Operation Clean Sweep enjoyed a highly successful second season, canvassed every city neighborhood, cleaned nearly 16 tons of trash and logged more than 2000 volunteer hours.
- Through a partnership with the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the City received 3 solar powered trash compactors that were placed at Buttonwood Park Zoo, Riverside Park, and at the intersection of William and Purchase Streets.
- The entire student body of Tabor Academy participated in a Day of Service, providing several thousand volunteer hours to City projects such as park beautification and beach cleanup.

### ***Environmental Remediation***

- Created a Buttonwood Brook Watershed Restoration Team to address pollution issues.
- The City oversaw monthly air monitoring at the new Keith Middle School, the results of which showed no levels of PCBs above actionable levels.
- Implementing an EPA educational grant, the City contracted with JFYNetworks to develop and implement environmental education programming.
- The City worked to acquire the 8.8 acre Bettencourt Parcel for open space.
- The City hosted the first community-based monthly environmental coffee hour to encourage environmental networking and resource sharing in New Bedford.
- Conducted biological control of invasive plants at Sullivan's Ledge Superfund remediation site.
- Cleaned air handling system at New Bedford High School to remove PCB impacted dust.
- Assessed soil quality of privately owned properties in the vicinity of Keith Middle School.

- Coordinated completion of assessment and remediation of the Camara Soccer Field.
- Using funds secured by Representative Robert Koczera, commenced demolition of the Elco Dress building.
- Commenced demolition of the old Keith Junior High School Building.

### *Community Services*

- Supported by \$180,000 in state funding, over 320 students participated in 15 Invest-in-Kids programs.
- The City hosted the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, serving 180 youth, and the Youth Track & Field meet, with 27 participants.
- The City collaborated with community-based organizations to assist families impacted by the ICE raid, as well as the state office of Health and Human Services under the leadership of Secretary JudyAnn Bigby.
- The City coordinated the Oral Health Impact Project and the Kids That Grow Community Garden Club at the Hayden-McFadden Elementary School.
- The City co-sponsored the Youth Expo for Summer Jobs with New Directions.
- Introduced and enrolled high school students who had not passed the MCAS into the Pathways program.
- Offered New Beginnings ESOL program in partnership with Grace Episcopal Church to 20 adult students and their families.
- Partnered with UMass Dartmouth to place tutors at Hayden-McFadden Elementary School.
- Partnered with YouthBuild to build lifeguard stands at East and West Beach.
- Piloted the Saturday Academy program for 50 students from Parker Elementary School.
- Secured funding to increase service-learning as a teaching methodology and dropout prevention strategy.
- Held Youth Summit, attended by 400 City youth.



- The City collaborated with the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center to facilitate outreach to senior housing sites in New Bedford to administer the flu vaccine.
- The City's 5 senior centers served 742 residents.
- Expanded Clear Paths Snow Removal Program to 100 seniors, and assisted elderly and disabled homeowners with spring clean-up.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Portuguese Elder Conference was attended by 125 residents.
- Spring Fling, a program of the Council on Aging, was attended by 150.
- The downtown Council on Aging Senior Center was relocated to new quarters.
- The Council on Aging began a Knitters Program.
- The Council on Aging mailed over 700 brochures to retirees aged 65+ informing them of available programs and services.
- The food drive held in conjunction with PACE aided 30 seniors.
- Hearing aid services were offered monthly at 4 City locations.
- A Council on Aging newsletter was developed to provide comprehensive information about services and programming at all senior centers.
- The New Bedford Healthcare Center provided Healthy Eating programs at 2 senior centers.
- New programming was offered at the Brooklawn Senior Center, including Scrapbooking and a Discussion Group.
- Served over 80 senior citizens at a Council on Aging Health Fair.
- The Sunset Social program served 35 seniors for 13 weeks at the Grace Episcopal Church.
- The Council on Aging coordinated the West Side Students Breakfast Program for Senior Citizens.
- The Massachusetts Department of Education awarded the City \$45,000 for its Summer Food Service program that operated across 58 sites, serving 72,730 meals to City youth.

- The City's Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Officer served 349 constituents.
- The Adult Drug Court program graduated 16 residents.
- The Neighborhood Outreach Unit provided constituent services in 5 languages to over 2,200 constituents.
- The CS<sup>2</sup> program obtained \$225,674 in grants and served 3,540 students and 745 parents, partnering with 90 businesses and community organizations.
- The City's Human Relations Commission became fully operational with the addition of a staff member.
- The City serves 311 veterans, widows, spouses, and children, the largest number of clients in the City's history.
- The Veteran's van service made almost 900 trips to bring clients to and from medical appointments.
- With the assistance and support of the City Council under the leadership of City Council President Leo Pimental, several ceremonies and dedications honoring New Bedford veterans were held in 2007.
- A ceremony was held to rededicate the Exercise Tiger Tank at Ft. Taber.
- A plaque commemorating World War I veterans was installed and dedicated at City Hall.
- A ceremony was held at Peter Francisco Square in New Bedford to commemorate his contributions during the Revolutionary War.
- The City held a ceremony to dedicate the overpass at the intersection of Route 195 and Route 140 the George E. Patisieas Overpass.
- A plaque ceremony was held at City Hall to honor Lance Corporal Michael L. Ford, who gave his life while serving our country in Iraq.
- With the help of 70 volunteers and funded by private donations, Veterans Services delivered over 240 Thanksgiving meals to the homes of elderly and disabled clients.

### *Library*

- Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of \$225,000 was used for handicap accessibility improvements to the Howland Green, Wilkes, and Lawler branch libraries.
- Each branch library expanded its hours of operation from to 32 to 40 hours per week.
- With the financial assistance of Friends of the Library and Trustees of New Bedford Day Nursery, conducted children's programming that engaged nearly 600 children and adults around Read Across America Week.
- SAILS, the library network, was upgraded to allow for speedier service at the branch libraries.
- 53 security cameras were installed at the Main Library.
- The Casa da Saudade branch library hosted the visit of the Ambassador of Portugal in June.
- The Casa branch hosted a book launch on August 24 for *Espirito Santo em Festa*, about the history of the Holy Ghost Feast.
- The Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities *Escrita da Vita* project took place at the Casa branch during the fall.
- The New Bedford Main library was selected by Shaw's and Coca-Cola, in concert with Governor Deval Patrick's office, as one of the 5 in the Commonwealth to receive a grant of \$5,000 in recognition of Black History Month.
- Slades Ferry Bank donated \$1,500 to assist in funding the Summer Reading Program.
- The Library received \$4,000 from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation for children's materials.
- The Library received \$3,500 from Leland Carle to acquire the 1870 Massachusetts census.
- The Library received \$2,600 from Leland Carle for the replacement of genealogies in poor condition.
- The Library received \$120 from Jim Lopes for Cape Verdean church records.

- The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded the City a \$40,000 Planning & Design Grant for the Casa da Saudade portion of the Portuguese Cultural Center.
- In the first 6 months of the year, circulation increased 7.5% over the same time period the previous year. In the second 6 months of the year, circulation increased by 6.6% over the same time period the previous year.
- In 2007, circulation at the 4 branch libraries increased by 10% over the previous year.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT – Managing our City in the Most Effective and Economical Way**

### **2007 Overview:**

In January of 2006, New Bedford's financial outlook was gloomy. The city's unstable fiscal condition was due in large part to an alarming FY '06 deficit, poor borrowing practices, and years of inappropriate financial expenditures. Over the past year, my administration has continued to work diligently to address these financial concerns.

Several practices we have employed to better manage city finances include:

- To encourage cost-saving ideas and to seek innovative ways to reduce the burden upon City taxpayers.
- To not enter into financial obligations without necessary and binding commitments to support them.
- To initiate a comprehensive city building maintenance program.
- To ensure that all expenditures met statutory requirements and all Department of Revenue oversight requirements.

Over the past year, we have continued to fortify New Bedford's financial stability and integrity, continued to address the initial financial problems that immediately faced this administration, resolved collective bargaining agreements with city employee unions at a reasonable cost, financed the final cost of the Keith Middle School at a rate of 90 % state funding, and continued to work closely with the State Department of Revenue to initiate long-needed financial management system improvements.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

- The City has retained its A3 bond rating with Moody's Investors Service, affecting a total of \$220,000,000 of long-term debt, saving the tax payers \$1,090,018 in future interest costs over the life of the bonds.
- With the help of Treasurer Tim Cahill, Senator Mark C. Montigny, Representative Robert Koczera, Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral, Representative John F. Quinn, Representative Stephen R. Canessa, and the entire New Bedford City Council, converted the City's award from the Massachusetts School Building Authority to pay for the Keith Middle School overrun. The total projected cost was \$103 million.
- New Bedford obtained the State's commitment of a \$48 million school building plan that will see initial implementation in calendar year 2008.

- With the City Council, returned \$3.75 million in free cash to City taxpayers to reduce the 2008 tax rate.
- Certified \$8.5 million in free cash.
- Through a competitive RFP process, the city-owned land at the Fairhaven Mills site drew a high bid of \$500,000.
- Through putting the City's school bus contract out to bid through an RFP process, the City saved between \$360,000 -704,000.
- The City worked with the State Department of Revenue to implement suggested changes to City management systems, policies and procedures, including hiring a Treasurer to fill a vacant position.
- An audit of the Airport Enterprise Fund was completed.
- In 2007, contract agreements were reached with the police union, the fire union, and the municipal employees union (AFSCME).
- Established a balanced budget of \$294,021,554 for FY '08.
- Opened bidding for the City's health insurance contract, saving taxpayers over \$1 million, and resulting in the awarding of the contract to Harvard Pilgrim Health Insurance.
- The Treasurer's Office switched to a Remote Deposit system offered by Webster Bank, facilitating a faster availability of City funds.
- The Tax Title Division has collected \$1,393,964.29 in tax title; \$440,585.74 in tax title interest and fees; completed 46 final judgments (with an assessed value of \$2,750,698) and sold 3 abutter's lots.
- In October, the City held an auction of 9 properties taken through the tax title process, resulting in net revenue of \$349,121 and returning these properties to the tax rolls.
- The City's Resource Development Office, created last year, worked on 26 grant applications for \$8.1 million in funding, and brought in over \$1.6 million in grant funding.
- Reduced the deductibles on a number of City policies by 50% at no additional cost to the City due to positive claims experience and risk management.

- Completed process of enactment of home rule petition authorizing railroad bond issue of \$12.4 million and completed legal requirements of borrowing.
- The City Solicitor's Office and City Clerk's Office continued the process of posting on the City's website the New Bedford Code of Ordinances.
- The City issued an RFP for rental car service at the Airport, with two national companies selected to provide services, Budget and Avis. This results in better service to the public including a choice between two national companies as well as providing an increased revenue stream to the Airport, with each company paying rent and 3% of their adjusted gross revenue for that location to the City.
- The Traffic Commission raised \$1,302,847 in revenue from the City's parking garages, meters, through the enforcement of parking ordinances.
- In December, the City collected \$300,000 from the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board and \$300,000 from the New Bedford Redevelopment Authority for prior commitments.

## **CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY – Making our City Safe Again**

### **2007 Overview:**

Upon assuming office, I pledged a full-scale comprehensive effort to reduce crime, improve neighborhood safety and restore New Bedford's reputation as a safe city. My administration remains steadfast in our pursuit of these goals.

When I took office, I outlined the following objectives for my administration:

- Re-open the North End and South End police stations.
- Develop a coordinated/cooperative effort among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Provide our first responders with the best available tools and equipment.
- Establish strong working relationships with our neighborhoods.

We continue to enhance the City's ability to provide the community with a greater sense of safety and security through the growth and continued decentralization of our police force. When I took office in 2006, the police department operated out of one main station. Today, the department responds to the needs of this community from the main headquarters on Rockdale Avenue, and three district stations: Station 1, located on Pleasant Street Downtown, Station 2, located on Cove Street in the South End and Station 3, located on Ashley Boulevard in the North End.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### **Police Department**

##### ***Increased Police Activity***

- The Police Department received 94,279 calls for service in 2007 (or 258.2 calls per day), of which 24,236 yielded reports, resulting in 6,305 arrests.
- Arrests by the Police Department in 2007 increased 3% over 2006.
- Violent crime in New Bedford was reduced by 5% in 2007.
- The homicide rate decreased from 7 to 2, a 71% reduction from 2006, a 78% reduction from 2005, and an 82% reduction from 2004.



- Verified incidents of shots fired were reduced by 40%; victims in those shootings have been reduced by 66%.
- The Street Gang Unit made 320 arrests.
- The Narcotics Unit made 786 arrests in 2007, an increase of 22% over 2006 and a 64% increase over 2005.
- The Narcotics Unit executed 111 search warrants.
- The Narcotics unit seized just under \$304,000 in 2007, an increase of 2.7% from \$296,000 in 2006, and an increase of 157% from \$118,000 in 2005.
- In 2007, police seized 54 guns, including shotguns, semi-automatic pistols, and handguns.
- The Police Department received 13 grants totaling \$2,044,058.

#### ***Promotions to Leadership Positions***

- Eleven men and women graduated the police academy and were sworn in as New Bedford police officers on March 2, 2007.
- Several promotions were made to fill leadership positions, including the positions of captain (1), lieutenant (3), and sergeant (4).

#### ***Creating Law Enforcement Alliances.***

- Working with state and federal law enforcement partners, the New Bedford Police Department engaged in “Operation Kingfish”, a yearlong investigation into drug trafficking by the Latin Kings street gang that resulted in charges against thirty-seven members and associates of the national chapter.
- The New Bedford Police Department began hosting regional gang intelligence briefings, funded in part by the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative, bringing together law enforcement officers from Bristol County and Providence, Rhode Island, to discuss recent trends, patterns, and behaviors of known gangs, their associates, and other impact players of interest.
- The Port Security Unit worked closely with the Harbor Development Commission to rid the State Pier of derelict boats.

### ***Community Alliances***

- With the leadership of Representative Stephen R. Canessa and the entire New Bedford legislative delegation, the City of New Bedford was awarded \$1 million through the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative grant.
- In partnership with the Bristol County District Attorney's Office and working with Domino's Pizza and the Inter-Church Council, the New Bedford Police Department hosted a successful three-day gun exchange program in June in which 43 unwanted firearms were turned in, ensuring that they would not pose a risk to the community.
- With the support of Secretary of Public Safety Kevin Burke, New Bedford was awarded \$200,000 to provide summer jobs to City youth.

### ***New Laws***

- The City of New Bedford joined the national coalition, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which advocates for policies to keep illegal guns off our city streets.
- Mayor Lang and Chief Teachman testified on behalf of legislation proposed by Representative Stephen R. Canessa to create a state Public Safety Building Authority that would provide funding to cities and towns to build new police and fire stations.
- District Attorney Sam Sutter instituted a policy of seeking dangerousness hearings on any individual facing a gun charge, keeping individuals who pose a threat to our city out of our neighborhoods while they are awaiting further court proceedings.

### ***Increased Police Presence in the Community through Decentralization***

- On September 27, 2007, District Station 1 on Pleasant Street opened to the public, housing patrol and community police operations from Durfee Street, Linden Street, and Logan Street to the north, to Allen Street and Wing Street to the south, from the Acushnet River on the East, to the Dartmouth town line on the west.

### ***Fire Department***

#### ***Fire Department Activity***

- The New Bedford Fire Department responded to 10,964 calls in 2007, or 30 calls per day.

- The New Bedford Fire Department was the recipient of the Massachusetts Firefighter Safety Grant, the Massachusetts SAFE Program Grant, the Factory Mutual Grant, and the Wal-Mart Firefighter Grant.
- Two New Bedford firefighters attended the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and have completed a 160-hour course to be certified as Hazard Materials Technicians, enhancing our ability to respond to and mitigate low to moderate level hazardous material incidents.

### ***Enhanced Technology***

- The New Bedford Fire Department has placed into service the first Radio Signal Fire Alarm Box, allowing for faster receipt of alarms and providing more specific detailed information on the nature of the alarm. This results in an enhanced ability to protect property, improved firefighter safety, and cost savings.
- The New Bedford Fire Department began using 3 new iTX gas monitors that can measure hydrogen cyanide gas, improving firefighter safety.
- The New Bedford Fire Department purchased 10 new Motorola PR-1500 portable radios, improving communication capabilities with the ten front line fire companies.
- The New Bedford Fire Department bonded for \$1,541,283 to purchase a ladder truck, an engine, a 2008 Ford Expedition, and other equipment.

### ***Promotions***

- Five new firefighters joined the department on January 21, 2007.
- Several promotions were made to fill leadership positions, including the positions of captain (1) and lieutenant (4).

## **EMS**

### ***EMS Activity***

- Emergency Medical Services responded to 12,497 calls for emergency assistance in 2007, or 34.2 per day.

### ***Building Partnerships***

- Over 100 participants representing local, state, and federal government participated in a Table Top exercise involving a simulated biological threat at the Buttonwood Park Conference Center.
- Held EMT and Paramedic continuing education classes (for a total of 1,027 classroom hours) for 166 EMTs and paramedics from New Bedford, Acushnet, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, Dartmouth, Westport, and Rochester.
- As a Community Training Center for the American Heart Association, 300 people were trained or re-certified in American Heart Association classes covering CPR, Automated Defibrillator use, and First Aid.

### ***Improvements in Technology***

- GPS units have been placed in each ambulance to reduce response times.
- Capnography wave form sensors have been integrated into ambulance cardiac monitors to measure carbon dioxide levels in the blood.
- Use of the Police Computer Aided Dispatch System allows field supervisors to know the status of each paramedic unit while on ambulance call.

### ***Emergency Management***

- The City's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, detailing the responsibilities of City departments and agencies in the event of an emergency, was revised and distributed to all stakeholders.
- The City's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was revised and approved by the City Council. Upon federal acceptance, the Plan will make the City eligible for state and federal pre-disaster mitigation funds.
- Emergency Management developed a protocol to provide additional homeless sheltering, if needed, during periods of extreme cold weather.
- The Department was awarded a Local Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to achieve National Incident Management System training compliance.

- The Director serves as the Emergency Management representative on the Southeast Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council.

**STATS for New Bedford Police Department  
2003-2007**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Murder</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Rape</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>Assault</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>944</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1186</b>
<b>Auto</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>534</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4214</b>	<b>4349</b>	<b>4037</b>	<b>3662</b>	<b>3375</b>

Preliminary data; subject to audit.

## **EDUCATION – Preparing our Children for the Challenges of the Future**

### **2007 Overview:**

A strong community is one that places a premium on the education of its youth. In New Bedford, we are committed to preparing our children to respond to the challenges of the future. My administration has worked closely with our School Department, School Committee, our teachers and parents to improve and develop new opportunities that challenge and encourage our students. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the schools under the leadership of outgoing superintendent Michael E. Longo.

Much of our focus has been on the following objectives:

- Make positive changes in the dropout rate.
- Developing capacity through professional development.
- Aggressively pursuing grants and new funding resources.
- Make learning in our schools a rewarding experience.
- Fully weave our schools into our neighborhoods.
- Open schools for after school and community activities.
- Expand summer programming for youth.

During 2007, we secured state funding to cover the cost overruns of the new Keith Middle School and established a priority list of future school building projects.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives**

#### ***Educating the Youth of New Bedford***

- The New Bedford School Department was the recipient of \$104,726,165 in Chapter 70 aid.
- New Bedford Public Schools had 13,497 enrolled students in 2007.
- 3,283 students attended 4 high schools or high school-level programs: New Bedford High School, West Side High School, Alternative Regional Education, Charter High School.
- 2,923 students attend 6 middle schools or middle school programs: Global Learning Charter, Keith Jr. High School, Normandin Jr. High School, Roosevelt Middle School, West Side Jr. High School, Alternative Regional Education.
- 7,291 students attended 23 elementary schools: Ashley, Brooks, Campbell, Carney, Congdon, Devalles, Dunbar, Gomes, Hannigan, Hathaway, Hayden-MacFadden, Kempton, Lincoln, Pacheco, Ottiwell, Parker, Phillips Avenue, Pulaski, Rodman, Swift, Taylor, Winslow, and Charter.

- The School Department provided special education services to 2,679 students.
- The School Department consisted of 2,224 teachers, administrators, and staff.
- During the 2006-2007 school year, 125 new teachers, 25 new administrators, and 5 new nurses were hired.
- Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School enrolled 1,902 students, 1,480 of whom were New Bedford residents.
- The School Committee commenced a search for a new Superintendent of Schools, engaging the community through public meetings, focus groups, and a survey.

### ***Confronting Financial Challenges***

- The New Bedford Public School system continued to offer full-day kindergarten despite a restrictive budget, which is rare in comparable urban settings.

### ***Focusing on Children***

- Continued to visit elementary schools, middle schools high schools, to encourage both reading and personal responsibility. I have met with thousands of New Bedford students and hundreds of teachers and administrators during these visits.
- Funded the second annual Mayor's Summer Youth Program under which 154 youth supervised by New Directions staff participated in a 6-week program that provided a combination of work experience, education and community activities.

### ***Confronting Educational Challenges***

- The School Department's Drop-Out Prevention office continued to work to proactively keep children enrolled in school with programs such as an exit interview program designed to keep students in school.
- The School programs created by the Alternative Education Task Force, including the Twilight Program at New Bedford High School that assigns enrolled students to a supervised community service experience for a minimum of 15 hours per week, with students attending class for three hours later each day.
- The Twilight Program provided 75 students an alternative route to a diploma during the last school year.



- The dropout rate declined from 10.4% to 7.4% over the course of the last year.

### ***Protecting Children's Health***

- Made oral health care services available to every second grade student through the dental sealant program at Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School. Of the 192 students screened, 125 received sealants through the program and 33 were referred to local dentists for additional care.
- In addition to the dental sealant program, a comprehensive oral health care program was piloted at both Keith and Normandin Middle Schools. Students received dental exams, cleanings, X-rays and sealants on a Mobile Access to Care (MAC) van. Local dentists volunteered their time and resources to care for those students who required more extensive dental work.
- The City collaborated closely with New Bedford Public Schools, Day Care Providers, and the public in providing community education on the prevention of communicable diseases such as MRSA through proper personal hygiene and environmental sanitation.
- With the support and guidance of the MDPH Childhood Lead Prevention Program and in collaboration with the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, a pilot program has been gradually introduced to diagnose and treat lead poisoning in children.

### ***Educational Grants and Awards***

- The New Bedford Public Schools received grant and project funds totaling \$19,558,542.
- The Department of Social Services provided \$100,000 for the FACTS program, which provides mentoring, counseling, and enrichment at West Side Junior High and Parker Elementary.
- Our school district is the lead in a Federal Teaching American History Grants Program that connects educators throughout southeastern Massachusetts with history faculty from UMass Dartmouth and Bristol Community College.
- In recognition of increases in student reading achievement for two consecutive years, the school district received \$500,000 in Targeted Assistance funding to continue literacy-based interventions.

*Creating Educational Partnerships*

- Worked closely with Chancellor Jean MacCormack of UMass Dartmouth and Dr. John Sbrega of Bristol Community College to promote expanded educational opportunities for New Bedford youth and residents.
- The New Bedford campuses of UMass Dartmouth and Bristol Community College continue to promote access to a college education to New Bedford residents, and also offer programs to allow New Bedford residents to study for and obtain high school GEDs.
- New Bedford Public Schools continued its work with Bridgewater State College under the leadership of Dr. Mohler-Faria to attract more math and science teachers, as well as to recruit teachers who reflect the diversity of New Bedford.
- The SMILES mentoring program saw 250 mentors volunteering in 13 programs in 10 New Bedford schools in 2007.
- With the assistance of Chancellor Jean MacCormack, New Bedford Public Schools partnered with UMass Dartmouth on a program in which UMass students tutor New Bedford elementary school students. This program resulted in UMass students spending over 6,000 hours tutoring New Bedford youth in 2007.
- New Bedford Public Schools partnered with the Biotechnology Institute of Arlington, Virginia to help high school and middle school teachers incorporate engaging, high interest biotechnology content.
- New Bedford Public Schools continue to work with the Women's Center to provide advocacy and violence prevention counseling to participants in the Parent Teen Program.
- Collaborated with University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, College of Nursing in securing a commitment to raise awareness and build Medical Reserve Corps capacity through student and faculty recruitment for the City's regional efforts to maintain long-term Medical Reserve Corps volunteer recruitment efforts on campus.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Creating Jobs and Opportunities**

### **2007 Overview:**

Through strong leadership and partnerships, New Bedford's position as one of the pre-eminent economic forces in the Commonwealth and beyond continues to strengthen. We continue to market New Bedford's unique combination of assets to potential investors; a strong workforce, an unbeatable location, a charming community, valuable infrastructure and an economic development team willing lend its full support.

I have set the following economic development objectives for my administration:

- Aggressively market our city.
- Develop strategic tourism master plan to attract more tourists to our city.
- Promote and develop the creative economy.
- Support local business expansion and new business opportunities.
- Establish a Grants Office to pursue available Federal/State assistance.
- Assist private business to locate and expand in New Bedford.
- Create a Master Plan for development.
- Promote and support further waterfront development.
- Support improvement of City's valuable infrastructure.
- Support improvement of City's commercial areas.
- Support improvement of City's transportation systems.
- Establish interactive economic development team to aggressively support and advance economic development projects.

This city has developed a solid foundation from which to promote New Bedford's economic development potential. We have continued to work to instill the City's economic effort with new and aggressive leadership, target key projects for significant economic impact, enhance our capability to support the economic interests of our valuable waterfront industries, expand the reach of our tourism promotion effort, and provide financial support to assist our small businesses to expand and create additional jobs.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### ***Development and Economic Opportunity***

##### ***Business Recruitment***

- Worked closely with Ze-gen, a renewable energy company, in the planning activities for the site selection of the full-scale facility in New Bedford that is anticipated to require 50-75 employees.
- Worked to facilitate plans for a 100-room hotel in the downtown. The construction of the facility is estimated at \$10-million is expected to require 65 employees.

- Attracted sustainable tidal company Northern Currents, which has located to New Bedford to test their tidal technology, with hopes to expand into manufacturing.
- Attracted several companies to locate in the Quest Center, including Dakota Labs, Natural Currents, and Waste Water Solutions. The Quest Center now has only one office remaining for a potential emerging market company.
- Developed a grocery package to entice regional and national groceries to locate in the underserved area of downtown or relocate in the City's south end Shaw's site.
- Continued to work with and recruit small businesses throughout the city. Business development staff continued to assist nearly fifty new contacts with potential site locations and provided information on current programs and incentives.
- The New Bedford Business Park saw another successful year of expansion, with 9 companies building or expanding their operations within the Park.

### ***Lending Activities***

- In 2007, the NBEDC loan program continued to perform well, resulting in 16 new loans totaling \$1,053,500. Over the past two years the loan program increased lending substantially, resulting in a total of 50 loans totaling \$3,293,700, which leveraged nearly \$20,000,000 in private investment.
- The New Bedford Economic Development Council met with banking institutions, state agencies, and local business organizations to promote programs and develop strategies to assist existing and small business.
- Developed new objectives for the NBEDC loan portfolio. Key recommendations included: linking loan origination to City strategic goals, enhancing economic benefit analysis, strengthening compliance/monitoring, streamlining loan approval processes, and establishing a quarterly portfolio review.
- Formalized the relationship between the NBEDC and New Directions/Greater New Bedford Career Center to ensure that all newly created jobs are made available to low to moderate income city residents.
- The NBEDC established new performance standards for the monitoring and reporting requirements of the lending program.

### ***Job Retention***

- Worked closely with Eagle Industries in their efforts to purchase the Michael Bianco facility, allowing up to 500 jobs to remain in New Bedford.
- Worked with Davico, a catalytic converter manufacturer, to find an appropriate site to expand in New Bedford. Davico will be opening 30,000 sq ft of new space in the near north end, retaining 35 jobs.
- Facilitated the plan to relocate Finicky Pet Food from the future hotel site. This effort will retain 25 jobs in the city.
- Worked closely with Congressman Barney Frank and Governor Deval Patrick on efforts to retain 100 jobs at the Revere Copper and Brass plant in the Hicks-Logan district. Despite finding a buyer for this business, this effort was unsuccessful when the parties could not reach an agreement.

### ***Grants & Foundations***

- Received a \$50,000 grant from the Garfield Foundation to fund Phase 2 of the Upper Harbor Development Plan. This phase of the plan will focus on public outreach and the development of a final district and implementation plan.
- Continued the to build a relationship with the Lincoln Institute that will bolster our community based economic development planning activities for the upper harbor.
- Continued to explore additional grant funding and private foundation opportunities.

### ***Partnership Activities***

- Established with UMass Dartmouth a pilot downtown/UMD direct shuttle service. This pilot program is seen as a potential critical mass generator for the downtown, bringing a new population of UMD students from the Dartmouth campus to experience New Bedford's downtown.
- Continued to build alliances with Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the Rappaport Institute, MIT's School of Architecture and Planning; Suffolk University, UMass Dartmouth, and the Berklee School of Music.
- Continued to participate in the Gateway Cities Roundtable.

- With the assistance of grant funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, created a Creative Economy Task Force of nearly 70 individuals who have participated in consensus building sessions, traveled hours to gather information and compiled reports and presentations on how best to manage and grow the creative economy in New Bedford.
- Continued to build strong relationships with our state economic development partners including MassDevelopment, under the leadership of Bob Culver, and the Massachusetts Office of Business Development, under the leadership of Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Dan O'Connell.

### ***Economic Development Planning***

- Formalized an agreement with MassDevelopment to assist the City in the development of the city's waterfront. \$100,000 in Mass Development staff and consultant assistance is envisioned for the planning effort.
- Established a Permitting Task Force that works to determine ways of improving the city's permitting processes, looking to other municipalities to learn of best practices.
- Began work with MassDevelopment and consultant Goody Clancy for the Upper Harbor District planning efforts. The mills that line the upper harbor offer great potential for development and job creation.
- Continued the planning of a crew course for the upper harbor in tandem with the development of a final design of the community center and boathouse project with MIT architecture and urban planning graduate students. The boathouse will be sited at Fairhaven Mills.
- Continued to work with HR&A and MassDevelopment on a strategic investment plan for the city. This plan will provide the NBEDC and the City a roadmap of key job creation sectors that suit our geographic region and our current workforce, as well as our developing workforce.
- The Route 18 project to physically reconnect the downtown and the waterfront will significantly enhance economic development projects in this area of the city.

### ***Incentives, Sales, & Marketing***

- Completed an extensive review and analysis of the City of New Bedford's TIF/STA Program and conducted an onsite review with the Massachusetts Office of Business Development to certify that the program is properly managed. New TIF Board policies have been established, and pipeline applications to be

reviewed this spring include an amendment for Joseph Abboud Manufacturing and the expansion of Acushnet Company Ball Plant 3.

- The City hosted a fleet of classic boats and their passengers participating in the Classic Yacht Cruise. The annual event was organized by the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) of Newport, Rhode Island. The layover for the participants presents an important opportunity for the NBEDC to tell New Bedford's story to many individuals connected to companies, jobs and investment dollars.
- Developed the first version of a broad business development campaign. This work was done in partnership with MediumStudio and printed by Reynolds-DeWalt, and is entitled "New Bedford IS..."

### ***City Planning***

- Secured \$130,000 in funding from the New Bedford Redevelopment Authority and the U.S. Economic Development Administration in support of the master planning effort of the Hicks-Logan-Sawyer area.
- The City's revised and updated 5-year Open Space Plan has been submitted to the State for their initial review.
- The Downtown Economic Development Strategy Report was completed in 2007, examining the retail, commercial, and residential future of the downtown.
- Implementation of the Downtown Action Plan saw significant progress, with city departments, as well as the Bristol County Sheriff's Office, collaborating on projects such as graffiti removal, sidewalk repair, and tree maintenance.
- Prepared a historic mill inventory assigning a qualitative level of historic significance to each structure.
- Received a \$30,000 grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund for a Historic Structure Report for City Hall, laying the groundwork for future opportunities for restoration funding.

### ***Fishing Industry & Harbor Development***

- In 2007, New Bedford was once again ranked for the seventh consecutive year the top-grossing fishing port in the nation in terms of value of catch, with a total of \$281.5 million in landings in 2006 yielding an estimated \$1 billion in benefit to the local economy.

- 60,000,000 pounds of groundfish and scallops came through New Bedford.
- Port activity sustained 3,700 jobs.
- In cooperation with Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray and Attorney General Martha Coakley, the New Bedford fishing industry continued to pursue litigation against Framework 42, a set of fishing regulations unfavorable to the industry in Massachusetts and particularly harsh to the Port of New Bedford.
- With the continued advocacy of Representative John F. Quinn, New Bedford pursued changes to fishing regulation policy that would promote the economic vitality of the industry while ensuring appropriate conservation measures.
- The Fisherman Safety Training program saw 106 fishermen certified in the basic course, bringing the total number of fishermen trained since 2005 to 755, including 101 drill conductors.
- Using funding obtained through the Seaport Bond Bill with the assistance of Senator Mark C. Montigny, a new fendering system was installed on South Terminal.
- The Harbor Development Commission began project meetings with the goal of creating a berthing plan for New Bedford's commercial fishing fleet.
- The New Bedford / Fairhaven Harbor Plan Renewal Project commenced, with the objective of assessing the changing character of the port, setting new goals based on these findings, and defining a vision for the port for the next 5 years.
- The Harbor Development Commission removed 6 derelict vessels from its facilities, eliminating the threat they pose to public safety and the environment.
- On harbor dredging, worked with the Environmental Protection Agency to use Confined Aquatic Disposal technology and bring the project completion timeline from over 40 years to 16 years with support from our federal delegation, including Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator John Kerry, and Congressman Barney Frank.
- The Harbor Development Commission was awarded 6 grants totaling \$3.6 million. Additionally, 7 previously received grants in the amount of over \$950,000 were put into active use.
- The federal Department of Homeland Security awarded the Ports of New Bedford and Fall River over \$918,000 in grant funding for critical security enhancements. The Governor's Seaport Council supplied a 25% match to this grant, bringing the total award amount to more than \$1.2 million.



- The Harbor Development Commission worked with the EPA on relocation plans to move its New Bedford headquarters and operations off premier waterfront property to allow for waterfront development.
- The City received a \$50,000 Seaport Council Grant to provide engineering and permitting of a boardwalk along the hurricane barrier on the New Bedford side of the harbor.
- The Harbor Development Commission developed a Nets to Energy Program, giving fishermen a venue to dispose of retired and derelict fishing gear, which will be converted to energy through an environmentally friendly combustion process subsidized by Convanta Energy.
- The Ferry Terminal now houses a gift and coffee shop run by Work Inc., providing a much-needed service for ferry passengers and shop workers.
- The Harbor Development Commission introduced its first newsletter, *On the Waterfront*.

### ***Tourism Statistics***

- Buttonwood Park Zoo had another record-setting year with 215,000 visits, making it the #1 paid city attraction. The Zoo continued preparations to host the 2008 Annual Conference of the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians, which will attract a national audience.
- The Zeiterion Theatre welcomed 110,000 visitors.
- Visits to the Wharfinger Building Visitor Center were up by 15% over 2006.
- New England Fast Ferry service to Martha's Vineyard saw approximately 105,000 customers.
- The Cuttyhunk Ferry service saw approximately 14,000 passengers, up 20% from 2006.
- American Cruise Line visited the Port 25 times in 2007, bringing 1,871 passengers on these voyages.
- The Port houses 8 recreational boating marinas.
- Three charter fishing operations worked out of the Harbor.
- The internationally renowned Feast of the Blessed Sacrament saw over 300,000 visitors.

- New Bedford saw a successful and well-attended 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend of festivities, including the annual “Summerfest” event and Cape Verdean Recognition Day parade, with over 30,000 visitors.
- From July to October alone, the City of New Bedford was home to over 135 festivals and events.

### ***Tourism Activity***

- Developed a Tourism Advisory Board, comprised of executive directors and directors of tourism destinations including the New Bedford National Historical Park, the Buttonwood Park Zoo, the Zeiterion Performing Arts Theatre, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House, WHALE, the New Bedford Art Museum, Artworks, Gallery X, the Schooner *Ernestina*, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the New Bedford Historical Society, and the New Bedford Preservation Society, which meets regularly to collaborate and exchange information.
- The Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism awarded the City a grant of \$50,000 to promote visits to New Bedford.
- Planned and facilitated the highly successful annual “Holiday Shops” event in downtown New Bedford.
- The *Schooner Ernestina* was awarded a federal \$500,000 Save America’s Treasures grant, and with the advocacy of Senator Mark C. Montigny and Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral, state funding in the amount of \$185,000.
- Work on the Corson Building continued throughout 2007 with the help of Senator Kennedy and Congressman Frank, who secured \$6,000,000 for the project during the previous two Congresses.
- A new Director was appointed to lead the Buttonwood Park Zoo.
- The Buttonwood Park Zoo completed a 5-year strategic plan.
- AHA!, with funding from private, state, and city sources, continued to provide exposure to artistic and cultural attractions in downtown New Bedford free of charge to residents and tourists alike on the second Thursday of every month.
- Continued efforts to interest the Cape Cod Baseball League in establishing an expansion team in New Bedford. A 2<sup>nd</sup> League game, Wareham vs. Hyannis, was played in the summer of 2007 to demonstrate city interest. Additional games have been scheduled in New Bedford for Summer 2008 and lobbying for an expansion team continues.

- The Ocean Explorium “Science on a Sphere” made its debut, helping to educate visitors about important environmental issues such as climate change, ocean currents and weather patterns on a global scale

### ***Transportation Improvements***

- After studying the issue of bringing a commuter rail connection from Boston to New Bedford and Fall River, Governor Deval Patrick and Secretary of Transportation and Public Works Bernard Cohen announced that we would have fully operational rail service completed in the year 2016.
- The New Bedford Airport received a \$456,000 grant for crack sealing on the runways and a \$561,000 Environmental Impact Study/Environmental Impact Report grant for Runway 543.
- A new Director was appointed to lead the Greater New Bedford Regional Airport.
- Along with our legislative delegation, I continued to advocate for the expedited construction of a commuter rail connection from Boston to New Bedford. I emphasized that service to our area was critical regardless of route. I requested contemporary data on the Stoughton and Middleboro routes in order to determine the most cost-effective and quick way to obtain rail service. I have advocated for using and upgrading existing rail, which would utilize the Middleboro route.
- Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral introduced legislation to create a Massachusetts Transit Fund, an innovative financing mechanism for commuter rail expansion from Boston to New Bedford and Fall River and other state transportation projects.
- Work on the Acushnet Avenue Reconstruction Project commenced.

### ***Workforce Investment***

- Greater New Bedford Career Center services and programs reached 9,526 New Bedford job seekers and 10,646 job seekers in total, of whom 1,415 New Bedford job seekers entered employment and 1,592 job seekers entered employment in total.
- In 2007, the Career Center received almost 50,000 visits.
- The Greater New Bedford Career Center assisted 640 area employers in total in finding qualified job applicants.

- 450 New Bedford youth, and 514 youth in total, participated in Career Center and New Directions programming.
- With the support of Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne Bump, the Workforce Investment Board secured state funding in the amount of \$499,923 (and a \$234,152 employer match) through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund's Advanced Manufacturing Initiative, training more than 550 existing workers in 4 New Bedford-based manufacturing companies and LMS in Marion, as well as 84 unemployed workers to prepare them for an advanced manufacturing work environment.

## **TOWARD A STRONGER NEW BEDFORD: Building a Sense of Community**

### **2007 Overview:**

Lastly, I indicated in my Inaugural Address that our efforts to make our city safe, prepare our children for the challenges of the future, create more and better job opportunities, and restore the vitality of our neighborhoods will only be successful with the support of an active, engaged citizenry. I have witnessed resurgence in our city's collective community spirit and individuals have again become personally invested in the future of our great city.

I have outlined the following objective to build New Bedford's sense of community:

- Promote trust in city government.
- Conduct open decision-making processes.
- Value input from community members.
- Communicate ideas and initiatives.

My administration has made a concerted effort to directly engage hundreds of people to contribute their energy and ideas to chart this city's course. New Bedford city government will continue to operate with the public's trust and in the public's best interest.

### **Accomplishments/Initiatives:**

#### ***Building Relationships and Opening Up City Hall***

- Invited then newly-elected Governor Deval Patrick to deliver the keynote address at New Bedford's Annual Martin Luther King Day Remembrance Celebration.
- The Charles S. Ashley Civic Meeting Room, opened in 2006, and the Rosalind Poll Brooker Meeting Room, renovated in 2007, continue to be made available for use by individuals and community organizations.
- The City of New Bedford hosted the July Massachusetts Mayor's Association Meeting and welcomed 30 mayors and senior staff from cities across the Commonwealth to New Bedford to discuss legislative issues and state finance.
- Joined Fall River Mayor Ed Lambert in co-hosting the Gateways Cities Conference, a dialogue among business leaders, university leaders, and elected

officials that focused on different ways manage the challenges and opportunities facing the state's 11 Gateway Cities, of which New Bedford and Fall River are 2.

- Hosted a Massachusetts Municipal Association Legislative Meeting in November, attended by local officials and legislators from the southeastern Massachusetts region to discuss local finance and economic policy.
- The City supported cultural events honoring diversity, including flag raisings for countries from around the globe, varied religious, cultural, and recreational festivals, holiday parades, and ceremonial events celebrating the strength of all of New Bedford's communities.
- New Bedford Cable Access completed renovations to the set in Studio B and acquired new camera equipment that the public can utilize. Through the basic television production course, Public Access staff taught basic camera operations and editing techniques to 72 community members.
- Educational Access and Government Access produced a combined 364 new programs for public viewing, and has focused on offering more event-based programming to the community.
- For their exemplary programming, New Bedford Cable Access was awarded "Overall Excellence in PEG Access" by the Alliance for Community Media, which designated NBCA as the top PEG Access operation in the nation.
- Mayor Scott W. Lang appeared weekly as a guest on WBSM AM 1420 radio during the "Ask the Mayor" segment to update the citizens and answer their questions live on the air.
- Mayor Scott W. Lang appeared regularly on WJFD 97.3 FM radio to report to the people the City's activities.
- Mayor Scott W. Lang wrote a bi-monthly column on New Bedford for *The Weekly Compass*.
- Mayor Scott W. Lang attended a conference in New York City of PolicyLink, a national think tank, and participated in a panel focusing on urban issues.

### ***Opening the Decision-Making Process to the Public***

- The Mayor's Sustainability Task Force was created to facilitate the process of developing and identifying ways to improve energy-efficient and environmentally sound policies in New Bedford. Former Mayor John K. Bullard was named Chairman of the working group, which will offer recommendations and implementation plans for better municipal energy and environmental practices.

- Fostered public participation and encouraged community input in the search process for a new Superintendent of New Bedford Public Schools through community forums, focus groups and a public survey.
- Held a series of public meetings to gain citizen input in the development of the Urban Renewal Plan and a District Improvement Financing Plan for the Hicks-Logan-Sawyer (HLS) District. As a result, the final plan contains a set of goals and objectives that accurately reflect the community's needs.
- Held informational meetings to update the citizens on the status of the Route 18 access improvement project including a complete project history, current status and future milestones for the design and construction phases.

### ***Voting and Elections***

- In November of 2007, 12,891 New Bedford residents participated in the election, out of 52,735 registered voters.
- The New Bedford Elections Office was designated by the U.S. Department of State as an official U.S. Passport acceptance facility, increasing the services offered at City Hall to the residents of New Bedford.
- For the second year in a row, New Bedford youth conducted a summer voter registration drive funded in part by a \$10,000 grant awarded to the Elections Office by the Secretary of State William Francis Galvin.
- Conducted comprehensive Annual Street Listing Census to update the city's current registered voter records.

*In 2007, the following individuals served the people of New Bedford:*

Governor Deval Patrick  
 Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray  
 Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin  
 Auditor A. Joseph DeNucci  
 Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill  
 Governor's Councilor Carole A. Fiola

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
 Senator John F. Kerry  
 Congressman Barney Frank

District Attorney Sam Sutter

State Senator Mark C. Montigny  
 State Representative Robert M. Koczera  
 State Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral  
 State Representative John F. Quinn  
 State Representative Stephen R. Canessa

Mayor Scott W. Lang

New Bedford City Council

Ward One City Councilor Linda M. Morad  
 Ward Two City Councilor Paul Koczera  
 Ward Three City Councilor Joe F. DeMedeiros  
 Ward Four City Councilor Viola Pina  
 Ward 5 City Councilor Jane L. Gonsalves  
 Ward 6 City Councilor Leo Pimental  
 Councilor-At-Large David Alves  
 Councilor-At-Large Debora Coelho  
 Councilor-At-Large Brian K. Gomes  
 Councilor-At-Large Denis Lawrence, Jr.  
 Councilor-At-Large John T. Saunders

New Bedford School Committee

Mayor Scott W. Lang  
 Ramona Silva Nancy Feeney  
 Jack Nobrega Dr. John Fletcher  
 Eric Pope Atty. J. Mark Treadup

Assessors

Marty Treadup  
 Peter E. Berthiaume  
 Robert Pacheco

*The 2007 election yielded:*

*Steve Martins, Ward Two City Councilor*  
*Bruce Duarte, Jr., Ward Four City Councilor*  
*Wendy Pimental, Ward Six City Councilor*

*Jill Ussach, School Committee*  
*Marlene Pollock, School Committee*  
*Thomas Clark, School Committee*